ROSENBERG • GORHAM • GARLAND

THE NEW MUTANTS

DEAD SOULS

MARVEL

5

THE NEW MUTANTS

DEAD SOULS

BORN WITH AN X-GENE THAT GRANTS THEM WEIRD AND UNCANNY ABILITIES, MUTANTS ARE THOUGHT TO BE THE NEXT STEP IN HUMAN EVOLUTION. XI'AN COY MANH, A DISCIPLE OF THE MUTANT ACTIVIST CHARLES XAVIER, HAS ASSEMBLED A TEAM OF UNIQUELY QUALIFIED MUTANTS LED BY ILLYANA RASPUTIN (A.K.A. MAGIK) TO INVESTIGATE THESE WEIRD AND UNCANNY PHENOMENA.

ON A RECENT MISSION, ILLYANA DISCOVERED THAT XI'AN'S UNDEAD BROTHER, TRAN, WAS BEHIND THE RECENT STRING OF SUPERNATURAL INCIDENTS. TRAN ENSORCELLED ILLYANA INTO BELIEVING HER TEAM WAS DEAD, BUT SHE NARROWLY OVERCAME HIS ENCHANMENT. TRAN HINTED THAT HIS NEXT TARGET WOULD BE DOCTOR STRANGE, THE SORCEROR SUPREME...

MEANWHILE IN CONNECTICUT, THE TECHNO-ORGANIC EXTRATERRESTRIAL KNOWN AS WARLOCK, HIMSELF A FORMER ASSOCIATE OF XI'AN'S, WAS ATTACKED BY A GROUP OF KIDS AND EXPLODED INTO DUST...

CHAPTER 5:
ATROCITY EXHIBITION

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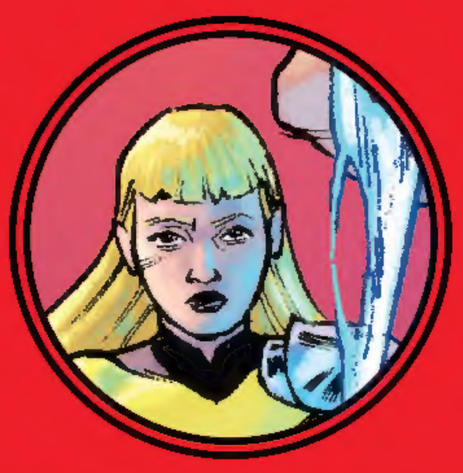

MAGIK
ILLYANA RASPUTIN

RICTOR
JULIO RICHTER

BOOM-BOOM
TABITHA SMITH

STRONG GUY
GUIDO CAROSELLA

WOLFSBANE
RAHNE SINCLAIR

BING-BONG

THIS SUCKS.

177A BLEECKER STREET.

SHAN SAID WE'D HAVE THE WEEK OFF.

ILLYANA DID! I WAS GOING TO THE WHITNEY AND THEN SHE "*BAMFED*" ME DOWN HERE TO THE WEST VILLAGE. AND NOT EVEN THE FUN PART.

NOBODY MADE YOU COME, RICTOR.

YOU DON'T WANT TO BE HERE, JUST GO.

LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE IS MY RIDE, REMEMBER?

THE A TRAIN IS, LIKE, TWO BLOCKS AWAY. STOP USING ILLYANA LIKE SHE'S A CAB.

GUESS HE'S EXPECTING US AFTER ALL.

HELLO? ANYBODY HOME?

RIC'S RIGHT, THOUGH. I THOUGHT WE WERE ON VACATION. WHY ARE WE MEETING WITH DOCTOR STRANGE?

ON THE PLANE, SOMETHING TRAN SAID TO ME...HE WAS COMING TO NEW YORK TO FIND SOME *"REAL MAGIC."* I THINK HE MEANT HERE.

THAT WAS BEFORE HE TRIED TO KILL US ALL? WHAT DID STRANGE SAY WHEN YOU ASKED HIM ABOUT IT?

...

YOU DIDN'T TALK TO HIM, DID YOU?

OH...HE DOESN'T KNOW WE'RE HERE, DOES HE?

OH NO... YOU JUST BROKE INTO A WIZARD'S HOUSE, DIDN'T YOU?

"WE." AND YES. BUT I NEED TO KNOW WHAT TRAN WAS LOOKING FOR.

WHY NOT JUST ASK STRANGE FOR HELP?

ILLYANA? ASK FOR HELP? *HA!*

WE'RE JUST GOING TO TAKE A LOOK AROUND FOR ANYTHING UNUSUAL.

...UNUSUAL.

IT'S A BIG HOUSE. WE SHOULD SPREAD OUT...

"...AND DON'T TOUCH ANYTHING."

PSSST. BOOTLEG HOLDEN CAULFIELD.

UMM...ARE YOU TALKING TO ME?

LOOK, I DON'T KNOW--

NICE SWEATER. DID YOUR BOYFRIEND BUY IT FOR YOU?

HE DID. AND I DON'T APPRECIATE THE SUBTEXT OF THAT.

LISTEN, YOU @%#$& @&# OF $%@#& OF @%#&@# &#%$&. I DON'T NEED A $@#&$% TO &@%#@ MY $@&%! OKAY?!

...

...

ACK!

NO. I'M TALKING TO THE *OTHER* MILEY CYRUS COSPLAYER. YOU LOOK LIKE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A GAP AND A WHOLE FOODS HAVE SEX.

YOU LOOK LIKE THE GUYS JUSTIN BIEBER PAYS TO HANG OUT WITH HIM SO HE LOOKS COOLER BY COMPARISON.

YEAH, THAT WAS UNCOOL. LEAVE AGING HIPSTER HARRY POTTER ALONE TO KEEP SNEAKING THROUGH OUR HOUSE LOOKING FOR STUFF TO STEAL.

FOR SOMEONE SO SMALL, YOUR LEGS SURE DO MOVE FAST.

YE SHOULDNAE BE HERE. MAGIK SAID TO SPLIT UP.

I KNOW, BUT--

WHAT DO AH HAVETA DO TO GET YA TO LEAVE ME ALONE? I WORK WITH YE CUZ SHE SAID AH HAVETA, BUT AH DONNAE HAVETA LIKE IT. AND AH CERTAINLY DONNAE HAVETA ACT LIKE YER MAH FRIEND.

AH, TAKE YER "*RAHNEY*" BULL AND SHOVE IT. YE KILLED MAH SON, GUIDO. ILLYANA AND THE OTHERS CAN GO ON 'BOUT HOW YA WEREN'T IN YER RIGHT HEAD AT THE TIME, BUT YA DID IT.

SO YOU'LL FORGIVE ME IF AH WANT NOTHIN' TO DO WIT YA.

RAHNEY, I JUST--

NOW AH SUGGEST YAH GO IN THAT DOOR. AND AH'LL GO IN THIS ONE. UNDERSTOOD?

OKAY.

SLAM

"COME WORK FOR ME, TABBY. IT'LL BE GREAT.

"YOU'LL GO TO COOL PLACES, HAVE FUN MISSIONS. IT'S NOT GOING TO BE LIKE UPTIGHT OLD X-FORCE OR THAT WEIRD NEXTWAVE STUFF."

CHIPS

SNIFF SNIFF

YOU'RE RIGHT, SHAN. THIS IS JUST *SUPER FUN.*

CHIPS

I'M GETTING REAL SICK OF HAVING TO WORK ALL THE TIME.

I DON'T REMEMBER INVITING YOU IN.

OH! I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D BE HERE.

AND I DIDN'T THINK *YOU* WOULD. BUT IT'S MY HOME, SO MY SURPRISE MAY BE SLIGHTLY MORE WARRANTED.

NOW I HAVE TO ASK, WHY WOULD YOU COME INTO MY HOME IF YOU THOUGHT I *WASN'T* HERE?

I'M SORRY, DOCTOR STRANGE. WE ENCOUNTERED AN EVIL ENTITY AND HE IMPLIED HE WAS COMING TO FIND YOU--

AND THAT GIVES YOU THE RIGHT TO BREAK INTO THE SANCTUM SANCTORUM, DARKCHILD?

DON'T CALL ME--

YOU MAY BE MY FORMER PROTÉGÉE, BUT YOU'RE ALSO THE DEMON SPAWN OF LIMBO. AND YOUR DEFENSE IS AN "*EVIL ENTITY*" TOLD YOU IT WAS COMING HERE? DID IT NEVER DAWN ON YOU THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE BEEN LIED TO?

NO, I--

I CAN'T TELL IF YOU TRULY BELIEVE YOU ARE CORRECT OR IF YOUR JUDGMENT WAS CLOUDED, BUT YOU'VE MADE A GRAVE MISTAKE, DARKCHILD.

STRANGE BETTER HAVE CABLE. I'M NOT TRYING TO MISS MY *ATLANTA*.

WHERE'S THE CLICKER? WEIRDO BETTER NOT HAVE SOME DUMB ***MAGIC-POWERED*** TV.

"BY THE TIRED TEARS OF TIME WARNER..."

rcerer's Own
YSTIC
ALE

YUMMUS!
The yummy hummus

OH, HERE IT IS.

PREVIOUSLY ON AGENT CARTER--

WHAA? THEY'RE MAKING NEW EPISODES OF--

OH, HEY THERE, LITTLE BUDDY. HUMMUS?

DOUG, STOP IT!

COME ON, GET UP, STOP TEASIN' US...

GUESS I WON.

WE DO GOD'S WORK THIS NIGHT, LADY.

NO!

READY TO PLAY *YOUR* PART, MY ONCE AND FORMER WEREWOLF?

AS MY *MASTER* COMMANDS.

AH HAVETA GIT OUT OF HERE!

THERE IS NO SIN SO TERRIBLE GOD'S LOVE CANNOT FORGIVE...

RAHNE!

RAHNE!

AH TOLD YA NO' TO FOLLOW ME!

I DIDN'T. I HAD TO WALK THROUGH SOME ROOM FULL OF MY NIGHTMARES AND IT PUT ME OUT HERE.

SAME. AH'M GLAD THAT'S...

...OVER...

OH NO. PLEASE...

AH... AH DIDN'T KNOW...

WE'RE STILL IN MAH NIGHTMARES.

AND YOURS.

LOSING MY SOUL...IT WAS LIKE I WAS TRAPPED IN MY OWN BODY. I COULD SEE IT, BUT I COULDN'T STOP IT.

I KNOW YOU BELIEVE IN SOULS, RAHNEY. THEIR IMPORTANCE.

I NEVER BELIEVED IN THAT STUFF. HEAVEN AND HELL. OUR SOULS. I WASN'T RAISED THAT WAY. I DIDN'T BELIEVE...

...BUT I DO NOW. I WISH I COULD SAY THIS WASN'T MY FAULT...

...BUT I SEE IT EVERY DAY. THIS IS MY HELL. EVERY SINGLE DAY I KNOW WHAT I DID. WHAT I AM.

I DID IT. I KILLED HIM, RAHNEY. I'M SO, SO SORRY. I'M A MONSTER.

I'M SO SORRY. I'M SO SORRY. PLEASE FORGIVE ME.

SHHH. AH KNOW, GUIDO. IT'S OKAY. IT'S OKAY.

YOU'RE WRONG ABOUT ME.

TELL ME, CAN YOU HEAR THE VOICE OF THE DARKCHILD WHEN YOU ARE IN THIS FORM?

THAT'S NOT--

DO YOU HAVE DARK URGES THAT ARE DIFFICULT TO FIGHT?

NOTHING BEYOND MY CONTROL.

SO YOU ADMIT YOU HAVE IMPULSES? THE HUMAN FORM IS NOT MEANT TO CONTAIN THE POWERS OF LIMBO. YOU KNOW THIS. WE'VE DISCUSSED THIS.

CAN YOU SAY FOR SURE THAT ILLYANA RASPUTIN IS STILL IN CONTROL?

YES...I... THIS ISN'T WHAT I CAME HERE FOR.

ARE YOU SURE?

THERE IS A SIMPLE WAY TO DEAL WITH THIS. DRAW YOUR SOULSWORD.

I DON'T THINK THAT'S A GOOD IDEA.

I CAN PROTECT MYSELF, SO I AM NOT AFRAID OF WHAT YOU MIGHT DO WITH IT. ARE YOU?

GOOD.

NOW LET THE DARKCHILD COME OUT.

NO.

I'M NOT SPEAKING TO ILLYANA ANYMORE. BRING FORTH YOUR TRUE SELF. WE WILL SPEAK AS EQUALS.

IS THIS WHAT YOU WANTED? IS THIS WHAT YOU WERE HOPING FOR, SORCERER?

THAT WAS JUST THE FIRST STEP...

NOW I WANT YOU TO STAB YOURSELF.

YOUR SOULSWORD WILL ONLY HURT THE MAGICAL ASPECTS OF YOUR BEING. IF ILLYANA IS TRULY IN CONTROL THEN ***SHE*** CAN CUT THE DEMON OUT AND RESCUE THE POOR MUTANT CHILD.

NICE TRY.

ILLYANA! NO!

OOOF!

I WON'T LET YOU DO IT!

GET OFF ME!

YOU DON'T WANT TO DO THIS, ILLYANA! TRUST ME!

YES, I DO.

SHE IS NO LONGER IN CONTROL OF HER ACTIONS. THE DEMON IS ALL THAT IS LEFT.

IT'S A TRICK! HE'S LYING!

I'M AFRAID I AM NOT. YOUR DEAR FRIEND MAY BE GONE FOR GOOD IF WE DON'T ACT QUICKLY. RAHNE, TAKE HER SWORD AND--

NO. SOMETHIN'S WRONG. GUIDO, LET 'ER GO.

BUT LOOK AT HER, RAHNEY. SHE'S A MONSTER.

WE ALL ARE.

YOU'VE JUST MADE A TERRIBLE MISTAKE.

WOULDN'T BE MY FIRST.

OF COURSE NOT. YOU'RE THE WORST THE X-MEN HAVE TO OFFER.

I'LL SHOW *YOU* THE WORST!

YOU ALL REALLY ARE TERRIBLE AT THIS. YOU KNOW THAT, RIGHT? NO WONDER MY SISTER PICKED YOU.

SHE PICKED US 'CUZ SHE KNEW WE'D KICK YER ARSE!

NO, NO, NO. YOU ARE HER B-TEAM. YOU'RE THE %$#@-UPS. SHE KNEW YOU'D SPEND TOO MUCH TIME DISTRUSTING EACH OTHER AND INFIGHTING TO EVER FIGURE OUT YOU WERE BEING USED.

THE RIGHT MIX OF "*BLIND LOYALTY*," LACK OF TRUST AND TOTAL INCOMPETENCE MAKE YOU THE PERFECT PATSIES.

NOT SO INCOMPETENT THAT WE DIDN'T MAKE IT HERE TO STOP *YOU*.

OH, MY DEAR GIRL. I FEEL LIKE I KNOW YOU SO WELL AFTER WATCHING YOU GROW UP ALL THESE YEARS, TRAPPED BEHIND MY SISTER'S EYES.

YET YOU NEVER CEASE TO ASTOUND ME IN THE LENGTHS YOU WILL GO TO APPEAR IN CONTROL WHEN YOU ARE THE FURTHEST THING FROM IT.

YOU DIDN'T CATCH ME HERE. I LEFT YOU CLUES. I COULDN'T GET PAST STRANGE'S MAGICAL SEAL. ONLY YOUR SOULSWORD COULD, DARLING. YOU OPENED THE DOOR FOR ME.

I BET THE REST OF YOUR LITTLE TEAM DIDN'T EVEN KNOW YOU WERE LOOKING FOR ME, DID THEY? SECRETS ARE NO FUN, ILLYANA.

SHUT UP!

WELL, AT LEAST YOU CAN ALL BE HAPPY KNOWING YOU'VE BEEN CARRYING OUT *HER* AGENDA FOR MONTHS WITHOUT ANY OF YOU KNOWING IT. AND NOW YOU CAN TAKE COMFORT KNOWING THAT YOU FAILED AND SHE WILL LOSE.

I'LL KILL YOU MYSELF.

OH, IF YOU COULD I KNOW YOU WOULD, ILLYANA. BUT I'VE HAD YEARS TO FOCUS AND BECOME SO MUCH MORE POWERFUL. THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN DO TO HARM ME WHEN I'M IN THIS FORM.

I KNOW YOU CAN'T STAY LIKE THAT FOREVER.

LUCKY FOR ME, I CAN KILL YOU NOW SO I DON'T HAVE TO.

LUCKY FOR US, WE HAVE A ME!

AND MY LEGLESS AMPHIBIAN FRIENDS HERE TOLD ME THAT BEING NEAR THIS GAUDY LITTLE PIECE OF FLARE WILL TURN YOU BACK TO YOUR PHYSICAL FORM.

WE'RE REPTILES, MORON.

SILLY BOY, THAT'S WHAT I WAS AFTER THIS WHOLE TIME.

OOOPS.

YEAH, OOOPS.

I BANISH YOU TO LIMBO!

YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN JUST BANISH ME WITH ONE OF YOUR LITTLE *STEPPING DISCS?!*

HAVING A PHYSICAL BODY HAS ONLY MADE ME MORE POWERFUL.

SHRAF

BUT IT ALSO MEANS WE CAN HIT YOU!

'YANA, WHEN I GO IN...YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO...

GET OFF! WAIT!

NO!

YE HAVE TA OPEN IT BACK UP. GUIDO'S IN THERE.

I CAN'T. I CAN'T RISK TRAN GETTING BACK OUT. HE'S TOO POWERFUL.

YE CAN'T LEAVE HIM THERE. IT'S HELL. YE CAN'T LEAVE HIM.

I THINK IT'S TIME WE HAVE A TALK WITH SHAN.

TABBY, WE'RE LEAVING.

UGGH. FINE. YOU GUYS FIND DOCTOR STRANGE?

NO.

WE STILL GETTING PAID?

YOU GUYS LOOK LIKE @#&$. WHERE'S GUIDO?

TRAPPED IN HELL.

GEEZ. I MISS EVERYTHING.

HEY, ILLYANA, YOU TOLD ME THIS PLACE WOULD BE ALL COOL AND FREAKY. IT WAS PRETTY BORING. ALL I DID WAS WATCH TV. AND PLAY WITH A COOL DOG.

THAT DOG IS DEAD.

CANTERBURY, CONNECTICUT.

CHRISTIAN?

SLAM

HONEY? ARE YOU OKAY?

CHRISTIAN McKNIGHT, YOU OPEN THIS DOOR RIGHT NOW!

BANG BANG BANG

MOM, I DID SOMETHING BAD TONIGHT.

IT'S OKAY, HONEY. JUST OPEN THE DOOR. IT'LL BE--

AND NOW SOMETHING IS HAPPENING TO ME... SELF DOESN'T FEEL WELL...

SWEETHEART... WHAT'S THAT LIGHT?

TO BE CONCLUDED!

THE NEW MUTANTS
DEAD SOULS

NEXT MONTH...

#6: THINGS FALL APART!

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